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Urban District of Solihull



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1950

BY

IAN M. McLACHLAN
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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69, NEW ROAD,

SOLIHULL.

September, 1951.

Although this introduction is written by me as Medical Officer of Health for Solihull it incorporates aspects seen by me as Area Medical Officer to the Warwickshire County Council.

To the Solihull Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The year 1950 has, with the exception of an epidemic of infantile paralysis, been a very healthy one. Unfortunately other factors affecting the service generally have arisen.

The Sanitary Inspectors' Association objects to its members working under the general direction of the Medical Officer of Health and are pressing forward the matter so as to be completely free from this Department. In one respect they have my sympathy as the salaries paid to these officials are, in my opinion, extremely low.

Superannuation. The question of superannuation has not yet been settled for Medical Officers working for two authorities.

Public Health Medical Officers. Generally speaking very little is known by the lay-public about the medical staff employed in Local Government Work, and the popular conception is that the Public Health Doctor is either "not a qualified doctor" or is not so well qualified as the General Practitioner. This is not so. It takes eight years to train an Assistant Medical Officer of Health—six years medical training, one year at least gaining hospital experience and one year to obtain the Diploma in Public Health. This training cannot be taken by apprenticeship or by articles as in the case of the majority of local government officers, by entering the service of a local authority on leaving school.

In spite of the recent salary increase, few young doctors are prepared to enter local government service as assistants to gain the many years of experience necessary, before they can hold the post of "Medical Officer of Health," especially when more lucrative branches are open to them — often needing less experience. Moreover, Medical Officers of Health are the only Officers of Local Authorities who are required, by law, to have an extra qualification—i.e., the Diploma in Public Health, in addition to their medical qualifications (also required by law). So much

authority is vested in the Medical Officer, himself, that outside the Health Committee it is not always appreciated just how much work is done by the Health Department. Unfortunately, the representatives of local authorities on the Whitley Council have degraded the public health branch of the medical profession to the level of "Administrators with a knowledge of Medicine", which does not help the recruitment of new assistants.

The Medical Officer of Health has little to show for his work as compared with other departments, other than the good health of the community. The majority of the public are disinterested until they, themselves, fall victims of preventable disease. For these reasons, I am of the opinion that preventative work, both medical and dental, if it is to survive, should be taken out of the hands of the local authority and administered by one department.

School Dental Service. Owing^{to} the shortage of dental surgeons the teeth of the school children are rapidly deteriorating.

Housing. Many sad cases still reach me as a result of the continued housing shortage.

Old People. As I stated in last year's report this is still a very great problem. My opinion is that in spite of this tragic problem only that small portion of the community dealing with the care of aged is concerned or, for that matter, interested.

School Medical Examinations. I should like to see Section 48 of the Education Act, 1944, amended so as to make it compulsory for all children of school age attending private and independent schools to be examined by members of the Education Department's medical staff in accordance with the Ministry of Education's regulations.

Food Poisoning. During the year one potentially serious outbreak of food poisoning due to clostridium welchii (a germ found in soil) was averted by the promptness of the school teachers and the canteen staff in noticing the affected food. This was a stew mixed with onion cooked the day before it was to be eaten, allowed to cool overnight, and then re-heated.

Food Hygiene. I would like our legislators to adopt some of the points contained in the rules of hygiene of cook-houses of the British Army which proved so successful in the last war. Dogs, cats and flies still are too often seen in shops and warehouses in contact with foodstuffs that are eaten uncooked.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

IAN McLACHLAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

The year 1950 will remain in the memories of the staff of the department as a period during which considerable effort was expended in supervising the movement of caravans, generally used for permanent habitation, into and out of the district. This was not because the movement was very large for of thirty five which came into the area only nineteen remained at the year's close, but mainly because the administrative machinery of the existing law although apparently simple on paper proved complicated in practice.

Caravans are not adequate substitutes for houses for even if most of the sanitary and other amenities of houses are available and it is generally to be regretted that they are not, fundamentally they lack floor space, a defect which makes them unsuitable for family use.

Solihull, with its green open spaces situated as it is on the fringe of a large, densely populated industrial area tending to spread outwards seems to those living with relatives, no doubt, a desirable district in which to place a semi-mobile home. On the other hand those resident in the area tend to deprecate the presence of the new arrivals in temporary homes, pointing out that the new-comers have neither interest nor stake in the district's affairs and that they are interfering with the amenities hitherto enjoyed by the residents. The Planning Authority too, see in the establishment of caravan sites an undesirable development which is to be checked so far as is possible. In view of all this it is not surprising to learn from the Ministry of Local Government and Planning that "the Ministry's policy is to leave the local solution of these problems as far as possible to the local authorities, and if appeals are made, to support the authorities in any reasonable line which does not inflict too severe a hardship on those concerned." The application of such a policy is not easy, for councillors sometimes find themselves torn between humanitarian considerations and those of a firm policy. If a more positive national declaration of policy were made those administrators elected by the public and those employed by the authority might find it much easier to follow a decisive line of action which might be of lasting benefit to the urban district as a whole.

Turning to farms inspection and rivers pollution it may be noticed that there is an absence of comment in the report on these subjects due to the transfer of powers to other public bodies.

On the subject of food a steady and marked improvement is to be noted with regard to heat treated milk and ice cream samples and it does appear that propaganda efforts carried on at the point of production and elsewhere are having a marked beneficial effect, whilst more samples have been obtained than in the previous year due to the filling of a vacancy on the staff of sanitary inspectors.

A more progressive and cheerful note characterised 1950 and a loyal and interested staff believe that their efforts to serve the public in general and the Council in particular have not passed unnoticed. To colleagues in other Departments they would express their gratitude for willing co-operation and to the Council the hope that they may continue to be encouraged in their work which if sometimes arduous is nevertheless intensely interesting.

E. VAUGHAN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council : Councillor M. WALKER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Councillor H. N. CARTWRIGHT,
M.C., J.P., C.C.

Members of the Public Health Committee : Councillor V. A. RAINIER (Chairman), Councillor Dr. D. E. QUINET (Vice-Chairman), Councillors C. F. BAKER, M. G. LINES, P. S. LYONS, M. B. E. MASTERS, V. A. PERRY and H. H. PLESTER.

The CHAIRMAN of the Council is an *ex-officio* Member of the Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health :

IAN M. McLACHLAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ire, L.M., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

a, c, e, f.

ERNEST VAUGHAN.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

a, c, d.

JOSEPH S. FORMAN.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

b, c.

GEOFFREY N. DEAN.

a, c, d.

ERNEST SOUTHERN.

b, c.

ROBERT P. CHURCHILL.

b, c,

LESLIE J. PEARCE

(Commenced April, 1950)

Rodent Inspector :

E. CALLAGHAN.

Clerks :

GLADYS A. ALCOCK (*nee* HALFORD).

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.

SHEILA M. EMMETT

Public Analysts :

BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY.

- a.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- b.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Examination Board.
- c.* Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- d.* Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- e.* Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- f.* Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population Year 1950 (Registrar General)	....	....	67,640
Birth Rate	....	....	15.3
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	....	....	13.3
Death Rate	....	....	8.6
Deaths from Pregnancy and Child-birth	....	....	—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	28.01
Legitimate Infants	....	....	25.12
Illegitimate Infants	....	....	2.89
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	—

Population.—There is a slight increase in the Population, viz., 67,640 as against the figure of 66,850 in 1949.

Birth Rate.—The figure of 15.3 per 1,000 is slightly lower than in 1949, but compares favourably with the figure for England and Wales, viz., 15.8

Death Rate.—The figure 8.6 per 1,000 is lower than the figure for England and Wales, viz., 11.6.

Statistics for the past few years and of England and Wales are shewn in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list of personnel is given at the front of this report. The Inspectorial staff now comprises a Chief Sanitary Inspector, his deputy and four additional Sanitary Inspectors. In addition, appropriate clerical staff, and one operative carrying out the work of rodent destruction.

2. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Coventry.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	—	12	12
Paratyphoid	—	3	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis	11	80	91
			<hr/>
	Total		106
			<hr/>

3. *Hospitals.*—These are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

4. *Ambulance facilities.*—The Ambulance Service continues to be administered by the Warwickshire County Council. The Ambulances are housed at "The Hermitage," Lode Lane, Solihull.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water.*

(i) and (ii) The water supply has generally been satisfactory in quantity and the situation remains as outlined in previous reports, that is, the City of Birmingham Water Department supply is adequate and the City of Coventry supply is subject to periods of low pressure. This difficulty is being remedied by the laying of new trunk mains.

Samples were submitted to the Analyst from the supplies of each of the water undertakers for chemical and bacteriological examination. All samples proved satisfactory.

(iii) *The facts as to contamination by lead.*—There is no evidence to show that the mains water supplies serving the Urban District of Solihull are liable to be plumbo-solvent.

(iv) *Action in respect of contamination.*—No complaints were received from the public served by piped supplies in respect of contaminated water. Individual wells which were the subject of complaint were investigated and where unsatisfactory samples were found further investigations were carried out. Advice was given for rectifying these complaints by suggesting structural repairs, by alterations or by connecting the water supply to the water mains.

(v) Number of houses and population served by public water mains.

(a) Direct to the houses.

The number of houses and retail shops, as ascertained from the rate books is 20,196. Of these, approximately 19,291 houses, or 95·5% are connected direct to the mains while 794 or 3·9% are served by 581 wells.

(b) By standpipes.

111 houses or approximately 0·5% are served by mains water from 30 standpipes or taps in out-buildings for the common use of several houses.

Further particulars on the subject of water supplies are shown later in the report.

2.—*Drainage and Sewerage*.—The local sewerage system has been extended by laying 830 yards of foul sewers and 1,627 yards of storm water sewers.

3.—*Closet Accommodation and Cesspools*.—Forty-three pail and four hand flushed closets were converted to water closets during 1950 with financial assistance by the Council. Seven cesspools were dispensed with, the total amount paid in grants being £1,225.

The Surveyor's Department, which is responsible for the cleansing service states that the number of pail closets still existing is 888 and the number of privy middens 33, whilst 1,131 premises are still served by 669 cesspools.

4.—*Public Cleansing*.—The Council undertake the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Urban District area, the ashbin method of storage being general. The system of disposal is that of controlled tipping.

D. HOUSING

The following are details of new houses completed during the year.

Council Houses	....	....	....	135
Private Houses	....	....	....	68
				<hr/>
				203
				<hr/>

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Particulars of Entries in Milk Distributors Register.

Processing Dairies	....	....	....	....	....	1
Producer-Retailer	....	....	....	....	....	10
Retail Dairymen	....	....	....	....	....	11
Shopkeepers retailing milk	....	....	....	....	....	20
Retail dairymen registered outside Solihull but selling milk in the district	....	....	....	....	....	9

Licences issued by this Council in connection with the sale of Designated Milks.

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	....	8
Sterilised	....	....	....	....	....	9
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	....	....	1

Dealer's Licences.

Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Sterilised	....	....	....	....	....	....	30
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

Licences issued to process milk at a Pasteurising Plant

MILK SAMPLES.

The following table gives the results of milk samples submitted to biological, bacteriological, phosphatase and turbidity tests.

	No. of Samples....	Untreated Milk.	Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk.	Pasteurised Milk.	Heat Treated Milk.	Sterilised Milk.	TOTALS.
Methylene Blue Test	—	1	55	162	21	—	238
Phosphatase Test	—	—	55	165	22	—	242
Turbidity Test ...	—	—	—	—	1	99	99
T.B. Inoculation	22	—	—	—	—	—	7
							2
							1

The standards used to determine whether samples were satisfactory or not were those set down in the Milk (Special Designations) Orders and Regulations which lay down standards for Tuberculin Tested, Accredited, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.

When comparing this table with those of recent years a striking improvement will be noted. Whereas in 1948 approximately 25 per cent. of the samples taken proved unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination, in 1949 this figure had been reduced to approximately 12 per cent. In the year under review the number of unsatisfactory samples is negligible. The difference is apparently due to two causes. Firstly, the transfer of the powers of registration and supervision of dairy farms to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—this necessitated fewer samples of raw milk being taken and as it is well-known it is raw milk which is most liable to contamination. Secondly, no major investigation at a pasteurising plant was needed during the year. The figures indicated that pasteurisation has been carried out more satisfactorily than in previous years.

A vacancy on the Sanitary Inspector's staff was filled in April and consequently it has been possible to take a greater number of samples.

It was discovered on investigation that most of the unsatisfactory pasteurised milk samples were believed to be due to a break-down of the bottle washing machine at the one dairy operating in the Solihull area.

Tuberculous Milk.—Samples were submitted to the guinea pig inoculation test in order to ascertain the presence or absence of the tubercle bacillus, each sample representing the milk from a herd or group of cows.

The following table shows the number of samples taken in each of seven recent years and the percentage found positive :—

	<i>Number of Samples Examined.</i>			<i>Number positive to Tubercle Bacillus.</i>		<i>Percentage Positive.</i>	
1944	...	144	...	...	4	...	2.8
1945	...	58	...	...	6	...	10.3
1946	...	67	...	...	3	...	4.5
1947	...	28	...	...	1	...	3.6
1948	...	82	...	...	3	...	3.7
1949	...	24	...	...	—	...	—
1950	...	22	...	...	—	...	—

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of food were examined and disposed of after inspection had shown that they were unfit for human consumption :—

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Meat	—	2	1	25
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs ...	—	2	0	5
Miscellaneous Tinned Food-stuffs	1	2	0	24
	1	6	2	26

Of the above amount 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 9 lbs. was destroyed ; the meat was returned to the Meat Distributing Depot, whilst the remainder was diverted for use as animal food.

In connection with this work 742 “surrenders” of unsound food were made, in respect of which 477 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

ICE CREAM.

Manufacturers.

The following table shows the number of manufacturers registered at the close of the year and the action taken in connection with ice cream manufacturers’ premises :—

<i>Manufacturers’ Premises :</i>				
Registered at close of 1950	...	...	...	15
Transfers of registration ...	...	...	...	2
Discontinued manufacture	...	...	...	3

Of those registered, 3 use the hot mix method and 7 the cold mix method of manufacture, whilst 2 use both methods.

Vendors.

The number of vendors registered was as follows :—

Registered at close of 1950	...	...	...	143
Registered during year ...	...	...	...	28
Registrations transferred during year	...	...	...	4

The vendors’ premises where pre-packed and/or loose ice cream was sold were numerically as follows :—

Selling pre-packed ice cream only	...	...	82
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream ...	...	...	41
Selling loose ice cream only	...	...	20

The methylene blue test, as developed by the Ministry of Health was adopted provisionally for estimating the bacteriological quality of ice cream according to a system of four grades. 120 samples were submitted to the test and placed in the following grades by the analyst :—

Grades	...	...	1	2	3	4
Number of Samples	64	34	11	11		

Grade 1 is the highest grade.

The steady improvement in the number of satisfactory samples is evidenced by the figures. In 1949 40% of samples taken were placed by the bacteriologist in Grades 3 and 4, whilst in 1950 18% were so placed. No major investigations into the cause of unsatisfactory samples took place during the year, as no manufacturer gave a series of poor figures which would make such an investigation desirable.

Fat Content.

Fifty samples were purchased and analysed for fat content, with the following result :—

Below 2.5%	1
Over 2.5% to 5%	3
Over 5% to 10%	34
Over 10%	12

The samples were found to contain fat ranging in percentage between 1.3% and 13.9%, the average being 8.15%.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS.

The number of registered premises was as follows :—

Registered at close of 1950	13
New premises registered during the year	1
Existing premises improved	1

Other Food Preparation Premises.

It is probable that most of the meals served in the district are supplied by the School Meals Service. Twice investigations were made into complaints of illness believed to be due to food contamination. One case proved not to be due to food and the other is reported elsewhere under the heading of "Food Poisoning."

Propaganda talks on the dangers of, and the methods of avoiding, contamination during food preparation were delivered to employees of the School Meals Service.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING.

The work done during the year is detailed below :—

<i>Total number of samples taken—</i>				<i>Formal</i>	<i>Informal</i>
Milk ... ..	...	...	...	147	3
Miscellaneous Foods and Drugs	2	...	...	148	

Of these, 134 formal and 2 informal samples of milk, and 134 formal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported as genuine.

The following samples of milk were reported unsatisfactory :—
The legal minimum standards of solid content in milk are laid down by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1938, as Fat 3% and Solids-not-fat 5%. The purpose of the Freezing Point Test is to confirm the presence of added water).

No.	Method.	Remarks.
693	Formal	Solids-not-fat : 8.3%. Fat : 3.3%. Freezing Point : -0.0534° C. Sample of raw milk from Producer-Retailer. Sample repeated.—See No. 696.
696	Formal	Solids-not-fat : 8.45%. Fat : 3.3%. Freezing Point : -0.541° C. "Appeal to Cow" samples taken.—See sample No. 805.
700	Formal	Contained 5.8% extraneous water. Sample of raw milk from Producer-Retailer. Sample repeated.—Genuine.—Producer warned.
705	Informal	"Appeal to Cow" sample. Solids-not-fat : 8.4%. Fat : 2.7%. Freezing Point : -0.555° C.—Producer warned.
725	Formal	Solids-not-fat : 8.35%. Fat : 3.0%. Freezing Point : -0.533° C. Sample from Retailer.—Producer warned.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
826	Formal	Contained 10.4% extraneous water. Sample of raw milk from retailer. Sample repeated.—Genuine.—Producer not known.—See samples Nos. 828 and 829.
828	Formal	Contained 10.4% extraneous water. } Churn samples of known producer at Retailer's Dairy.—See samples Nos. 834 and 835.
829	Formal	
834	Formal	Contained 5.5% extraneous water. } Samples from churns awaiting collection at farm. Legal proceedings were instituted and fines totalling £15 plus £8/3s. costs were imposed.
835	Formal	
851	Formal	Solids - not - fat : 8.3%. Fat : 2.7%. Freezing Point : —0.538° C. } “Appeal to Cow” samples in connection with samples Nos. 834 and 835.
852	Formal	
850	Formal	Deficient of 13% fat. Sample from Producer-Retailer of farm-bottled raw milk.—Sample repeated.—See No. 855.
855	Formal	Deficient of 3% Fat. “Appeal to Cow” samples taken.—Genuine.—Producer warned and advised in the mixing and bottling of milk.

The results of unsatisfactory samples of Foods and Drugs other than milk were as follows :—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
780	Mustard Sauce	Informal	Labelling Offence. Old Stock. Manufacture discontinued.
781	Crab Paste ...	Informal	Deficient of at least 14% of Meat. Old stock—unable to make formal purchase. Remainder of stock believed withdrawn by distributors some months previously.
786	Beef Sausage	Informal	} Contained preservative and should be sold with declarations to that effect. Retailers warned.
787	Beef Sausage	Informal	
789	Pork Sausage	Informal	
790	Beef Sausage	Informal	

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
790B	Beef Sausage	Informal	Sample of sausage supplied to Council's Staff Canteen and suspected to contain soap. Analyst confirmed presence of 0.03% soap. Manufacturer stated that alum-packed American sausage skins were used and that they were soaked in soda solution to loosen them off. Believed that failure to rinse the skins afterwards allowed residual soda to react with fat present in sausage meat. Manufacturer warned.
795	Crab Paste ...	Informal	Labelling Offence. Sample was stated to contain Crabmeat, Milk, Flour, Edible fats, Spices and Salt. No milk was found. Sample repeated.—See No. 908.
903	Powdered Pectin ...	Informal	Contained excessive amounts of Copper, Zinc, and Arsenic. Sample repeated.—See No. 909.
908	Crab Paste ...	Formal	Labelling Offence. Reported to Ministry of Food. Norwegian packer and London Agents warned and advised of the labelling requirements.
909	Powdered Pectin ...	Formal	Contained excessive amounts of Copper and Arsenic. Distributor stated that the pectin was purchased from the Ministry of Food, and after negotiations with the Ministry and the Distributor, the pectin was withdrawn from sale.
918	Liquid Chocolate	Informal	Labelling Offence. Unable to make formal purchase—no stock.
997	Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine ...	Informal	Labelling Offence. Stock withdrawn from sale.
1052	Pork Sausage	Informal	} Contained preservative and should be sold with declarations to that effect. Retailers warned.
1053	Beef Sausage	Informal	
1057	Unsweetened Dessert Gelatine ...	Informal	Labelling Offence in opinion of Public Analyst. Legal advice taken.—No further action.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1. Incidence of the Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1945.

Year	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1945	—	7	90	—	34	10
1946	—	12	114	—	40	3
1947	—	22	101	—	37	1
1948	—	33	105	1	50	2
1949	—	1	113	—	41	5
1950	—	1	73	—	49	2

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1950.

Diphtheria.—One case was notified, a girl aged 5 years.

Scarlet Fever.—73 cases were notified, distributed as follows :—Olton 32 ; Solihull 16 ; Shirley 23 ; and Packwood 2.

Poliomyelitis.—During the year, 17 cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in the district, made up as follows:—

	M.	F.	Total
Paralytic	6	8	14
Non-Paralytic	2	1	3
Total	8	9	17

(Reference to Table III will give the age distribution.)

All these cases were treated in hospital.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nothing of Note.

No schools closed.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation continued throughout the year, except for a short period when it was stopped owing to the epidemic of Poliomyelitis. At the 31st December, 1950, 7,441 children of school age and 3,082 under school age had been Immunised giving a grand total of 10,523.

3. Tuberculosis.

During the year 72 cases were notified, 65 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory. Of these cases 8 were transferred from other authorities.

The following table shows the age incidence of the cases and of deaths from the disease of patients on the Solihull Register.

AGE—PERIODS	CASES NOTIFIED				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	5	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
15	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	6	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	5	7	1	1	—	2	—	—
45	10	3	—	—	3	—	—	—
55	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
Totals	40	25	3	4	8	3	nil	nil

28 cases were admitted to Sanatoria during the year and 32 were discharged after treatment (including some admitted during the previous year.)

Food Poisoning.

On the 10th and 11th October, 1950 a minor outbreak of illness was reported after partaking of a school meal. Normally 692 meals are served. 73 children had the meal, of these 25 cases of illness occurred.

The 133 lbs. of meat responsible for the outbreak was delivered to the kitchen at 9-30 a.m. on the 9th October. About noon on that day it was trimmed, cut into convenient pieces and boiled for some three hours with 28 lbs. of onions. At 3-30 p.m. the meat was placed in a large bowl covered with a cloth, and placed to cool overnight in the refrigerator room (not in the refrigerator). At 9 a.m. the following morning the mixture was minced, re-heated for an hour, and finally placed in insulated containers for distribution to schools by contractor's van. At noon it was noticed that some of the mince, reserved for staff consumption, in a bowl on a heated stove had overflowed from the bowl on to the stove. The kitchen supervisor stated it was spongy to the touch and felt like cotton wool. She immediately telephoned the schools concerned and asked the teachers to prevent consumption of the mince. The majority of the teachers whilst serving the meal had noticed that the mince was "fermenting" and had not allowed the children to eat it.

The bacteriologist reported that the predominant organism isolated was a heat resistant strain of *clostridium welchii* resembling type F in characteristics.

Symptoms of the illness—Feeling of nausea; in a few cases vomiting and perspiring occurred followed by diarrhoea. These symptoms commenced from 4 - 13 hours after consumption of the mince. The duration of the illness was about 24 hours and terminated with a feeling of general weakness.

G. OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The two public pools in the district are provided with modern continuous filtering and chlorinating plant.

Four samples of swimming bath water were submitted to chemical and four samples to bacteriological examination after various checks and examinations during the year.

Advice was given in one case where algae growths (green slimy plant) were proving troublesome. This resulted in an improvement in the appearance of the water.

FACTORIES.

The number of factories in the area during 1950 was :

With mechanical power	...	...	139
Without power	...	...	19
Works of building or engineering construction	...	...	10

The cases where defects were found are listed below :—

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary Conveniences :		
Unsuitable or defective	10	12
117 visits were made to factories during 1950.		

INDUSTRIAL SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Although a few complaints were received during the year investigation shewed that the amount of smoke emitted was not sufficient to provide evidence in legal proceedings. Advice was therefore given and the subsequent action taken proved effective.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The number of complaints received and departmental investigations made indicate that the rat population is thinly and widely scattered. At 139 infestations treated, the estimated number of rats in private dwellings was 866 and the number of bodies found after treatment was 446. 32 infestations were treated at business premises there being an estimated kill of 374 and the number of bodies found was 162.

Thirteen infestations were dealt with at local authority premises the estimated number of rats present being 190 and 126 bodies were found.

Additionally, infestations of mice in 8 cases were dealt with satisfactorily.

Sewers.

Two treatments of the sewerage system were undertaken in March and September, different poisons and bait being used in each case. During March 150 sewer inspection chambers were baited and the number of cases where bait was taken was 33. During September, 164 chambers were baited, bait was taken in 16 cases.

The difference in the number of cases where bait was taken is likely to be due to seasonal conditions for it is fairly well-known that migration into more open country occurs during the summer months.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Since 1945, the number of existing houses which have been connected to water mains annually are as follows :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Houses Connected to Mains.</i>		<i>No. of Wells Redundant.</i>	
1945	...	118	...	63
1946	...	84	...	60
1947	...	47	...	38
1948	...	105	...	58
1949	...	69	...	47
1950	...	52	...	31

During 1950, 31 wells were rendered redundant, but approximately 794 houses still rely on 581 wells for their water supply. The number of houses served by water mains is now 19,291.

Results of Samples.—Either for the purpose of investigating complaints or for supervisory purposes, a number of samples from individual wells were submitted to the analyst and the results were as follows :—

Number of samples submitted to both chemical and bacteriological tests	...	...	...	...	31
Number satisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	10
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	...	...	...	...	19
Number satisfactory chemically but unsatisfactory bacteriologically	...	...	...	...	2

A contract was entered into with the City of Birmingham Water Undertaking to extend the water main to cottages owned by the Council on the Elmdon estate. At the close of the year this extension had been commenced but not completed.

CARAVANS AND TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

Caravans.

As was anticipated and indicated in the report for 1949 an influx of caravans occurred into the area during the year and the Department was constantly occupied in keeping arrivals and departures under observation. The general position at the close of the year is indicated by the following statistical details :

Caravans used for full-time occupation :

No. of caravans established in the District at the end of 1949	22
No. of caravans newly sited in the District during 1950	35
No. of caravans removed from sites in the District during 1950 as a result of Health Department's action	16
No. of caravans established in the District at end of 1950	41
No. of temporary permissions given under Section 44 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936 and Town Planning Act 1947	4
No. of permissions refused before caravan sited	4

Caravans used for Recreational Purposes only :

No. of caravans established in the District at end of 1949 ...	12
No. of caravans newly sited in the District during 1950 ...	12
No. of caravans sited in the District at end of 1950 ...	24

During the year one appeal was made to the Local Courts against the Council's refusal to grant permission under Section 44 of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, 1936. The appeal was dismissed by the magistrates and the occupier of the caravan found alternative living accommodation. Later, he successfully applied to the Council for permission to site his caravan for recreational purposes only.

In other cases the Council took action under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 against caravans which had been sited without the permission of the Council.

With the arrival of so many caravans into the area the Council considered the provision of a caravan site adjacent to council houses where sewer and water supply were available. It is hoped to transfer existing vans to this site in Hay Lane, Shirley. At the same time a private owner of land proposed to apply to the Council for permission to establish a caravan site at Knowle on ground where ten caravans had been sited without the permission of the Council. In both cases negotiations were in progress at the close of the year.

The following table shows the number of caravans of all types that were established within the Urban District area at the close of the year:—

				<i>In full time Occupation.</i>	<i>Recreational use.</i>		<i>Totals</i>
Gipsy-type vans	...	...	11	...	3	...	14
Converted motor-buses	...	...	7	...	4	...	11
Modern trailer-vans	...	...	23	...	17	...	40
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...	...	41	...	24	...	65
					<hr/>		<hr/>

Temporary Dwellings.

The Council's policy with regard to temporary dwellings is to take action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 when temporary dwellings become vacant with a view to them not being used further for human habitation. In accordance with this policy notices were served in six cases informing the owners that the demolition of such properties would be considered on the dates cited. In three of these cases demolition orders were issued and the temporary bungalows demolished. In the other three an undertaking was given to use one as a garage only for a limited term. With the other two offers were accepted to carry out improvement work. The Council agreed in these cases not to take further action towards the demolition of the property within five years.

SHOPS.

In order to check the actual present position as to shops from which trading was carried out a complete survey was made of premises to which the Shops Act supplied. The result of this investigation is given below :

Bicycles and Accessories	...	...	...	9
Footwear and Boot and Shoe Repairs	...	...	...	35
Butchers ...	...	...	...	47
Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	22
Car, etc., Accessories, Petrol and Oil	...	...	...	27
Chemists	...	...	...	20
China and Glassware	...	...	...	6
Confectioners (bread, cakes, pastry, chocolates and Sweets)	...	...	...	40
Corn and Seed Merchants	...	...	...	7
Drapers and Haberdashers	...	...	...	18
Dyers and Cleaners	...	...	...	14
Fishmongers, including Game and Poultry	...	...	...	4
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	...	10
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	48
Furniture Dealers	...	...	...	13
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	...	123
Hairdressers	...	...	...	40
Hardware and Ironmongery	...	...	...	26
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	18
Off-Licences	...	...	...	20
Opticians	...	...	...	5
Outfitters (men, women and children)	...	...	...	65
Radio and Television	...	...	...	13
Stationers and Newsagents	...	...	...	42
Wallpaper, Paints, etc.	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	48
Total	...	...	...	<hr/>729 <hr/>

PETROLEUM.

110 installations were licensed for the storage of 154,564 gallons of petroleum spirit and/or petroleum mixtures. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £80 5s. 0d.

Five new installations were inspected as the work proceeded.

TABLE OF WORK DONE—1950.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Internal Defects remedied :

Defective plaster	....	....	....	....	....	57
Defective floors	....	....	....	....	....	74
Defective kitchen ranges, fireplaces and flues	....	....	....	....	....	14
Defective windows and cords	....	....	....	....	....	11
Defective doors	....	....	....	....	....	6
Defective sinks and waste pipes	....	....	....	....	....	25
New sinks and waste pipes provided	....	....	....	....	....	11

External Defects remedied :

Defective roofs	....	....	....	....	....	71
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls	....	....	....	....	....	18
Defective chimneys	....	....	....	....	....	10
Defective rainwater pipes	....	....	....	....	....	7
Defective eavesgutters	....	....	....	....	....	38
Defective dustbins	23
Defective yard paving	4

DEMOLITION.

Houses demolished	3
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DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	12
Defective drains cleansed or repaired	79
Handflushed and Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	....	....	....	....	....	47
Defective and obstructed W.C.'s and W.C. buildings	....	....	....	....	....	41

WATER SUPPLY.

Houses connected to water mains	....	....	....	....	....	58
Defective hot water apparatus remedied	....	....	....	....	....	9
Defective water supply remedied	....	....	....	....	....	11

MISCELLANEOUS.

Defects at factories remedied	....	....	....	....	....	12
Smoke nuisances abated	....	....	....	....	....	3
Offensive accumulations removed	....	....	....	....	....	5
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	....	....	....	....	....	67
New Petroleum installations	5
Miscellaneous defects remedied	17

TOTAL	738
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TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED IN THE SANITARY
INSPECTORS' DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	Inspections made	Notices Served Statutory	Informal	Notices complied with
Dwelling Houses and Schools	1719	7	170	163
Drainage	280	—	35	19
Pail Closets	19	1	5	11
Ashbins	117	—	50	15
Offensive Accumulations	12	—	1	1
Keeping of Animals	21	—	—	1
Food Premises	208	—	4	4
Dairies and Milkshops	39	—	—	—
Stables and Piggeries	62	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	57	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	245	—	—	—
Factories (with mechanical power)	92	—	1	2
Factories (without mechanical power)	13	—	—	—
Bakehouses	10	—	—	1
Milk Sampling for bacteriological examination	207	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling and Inspection of Premises	224	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Sampling for chemical examination	222	—	—	—
Water Supplies	113	—	6	1
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	190	—	—	—
Rats and Mice Complaints	55	—	—	—
W.C. Conversions	65	—	—	—
Shops	776	—	3	—
Petroleum Installations	58	—	—	—
Interviews	163	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	657	—	1	2
TOTALS	5,624	8	276	220

TABLE II.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1950 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Nett		Under 1 Year of age		At all Ages	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1942	60,960	1,204	19.8	52	43	560	9.2
1943	60,670	1,380	22.8	51	37	537	8.8
1944	60,070	1,400	23.4	44	31	532	8.8
1945	58,770	1,143	19.5	34	30	518	8.8
1946	61,720	1,223	19.5	41	33	555	8.9
1947	63,890	1,345	21.1	32	24	546	8.5
1948	66,600	1,169	17.5	21	17.9	545	8.1
1949	66,850	1,052	15.5	33	31.3	589	8.8
1950	67,640	1,035	15.3	29	28.01	587	8.6
Death Rate—Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—26.02 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—83.3							

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1950.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	29.8
126 Great Towns, including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	33.8
148 Smaller Towns	16.7	0.38	11.6	29.4
London	17.8	0.36	11.8	26.3

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases notified									Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years								
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Age Unknown	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	12	—	—	1	—	4	5	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	73	—	28	43	2	—	—	—	—	5
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	49	2	8	6	1	8	9	14	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	17	1	3	7	1	4	1	—	—	17
Acute Encephalitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	65	—	2	6	15	23	17	2	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	—	1	3	—	2	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	230	5	43	68	19	43	32	18	2	28

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1950.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes	283	304
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory	9a	3
2 Tuberculosis, Other	1b	—
3 Syphilitic Disease	1	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal Infections	—	1
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	1	2
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases....	—	—
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	1
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	13	3
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	17
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3
14 Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	27	27
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	—
16 Diabetes	4	2
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	28	65
18 Coronary Disease, Angina	48	25
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	9
20 Other Heart Disease	32	48
21 Other Circulatory Disease	11	15
22 Influenza	5	7
23 Pneumonia	17	10
24 Bronchitis	17	15
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	1
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	2
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis....	3	7
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	—
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31 Congenital Malformations	2	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	27	29
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1
34 All other Accidents	9	7
35 Suicide	4	1
36 Homicide and Operations of War	—	—

a—One of these cases was never notified.

b—This case was never notified.